



1 April 2011

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

1. This April, the Department of Defense (DoD) will mark the seventh annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The 2011 theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Hurts One. Affects All."
2. Under DoD Directive 6495.01, sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Most sexual assaults occur between people who know each other (i.e., friends, acquaintances, co-workers, etc). The DoD estimates that 20% of sexual assaults are reported, e.g., through a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or law enforcement agencies. Interactions between people that might eventually lead to a sexual assault often begin in social settings, such as parties and night clubs.
3. Prevention is the key to recognizing and reducing sexual assaults. You can make a difference in preventing sexual assaults by saying or doing something that keeps events from escalating. Bystander intervention is a strategy the DoD has launched in an effort to get service members to engage in preventing sexual assaults. Active bystanders can take the initiative to help someone who may be targeted for a sexual assault, in ways that are intended to avoid verbal or physical conflict. Effective active bystander intervention is based on knowing your ABCs:
 - a. **A**ssess for safety. Ensure that all parties are safe, and determine whether the situation requires calling the authorities. When deciding to intervene, your personal safety should be the #1 priority. When in doubt, call for help.
 - b. **B**e with others (the "Battle Buddy" concept). If it is safe to intervene, you are likely to have a greater influence on the parties involved when you work together with someone else. Your safety will increase when you have a Battle Buddy and stay with a group you know well.
 - c. **C**are for the victim. Ask if the victim of the unwanted sexual advance / attention / behavior is okay – does he or she need medical care or wish to speak to a SARC? Every installation has a SARC on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week who is available through the USFK Sexual Assault hotline, DSN 158 or Commercial (0505)764-5700. These are good numbers to have on your cellular phone's speed dial!
4. As noted in DoD Directive 6495.01, it is DoD policy to eliminate sexual assault within the DoD by providing a culture of prevention, education and training, response capability, victim support, reporting procedures, and accountability that enhances the safety and well-being of all its members. This policy can be adhered to within USFK only through your support.
5. The point of contact for this message is the USFK J1, Policy and Programs Branch, DSN 723-5632 or J1-SAPR@korea.army.mil.

We Go Together!

Walter L. Sharp
WALTER L. SHARP
General, US Army
Commander

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!